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Fire Officials Seek Public's Help in Series of Medford Arson Fires

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Medford Fire Chief Frank Gilberti Jr. are seeking the public's help in solving thirteen fires that occurred on July 15, 2007, all within a half-hour, at LaPrise Village in Medford.

Firefighters responded to a car fire at 58 Lightguard Drive, Medford and were informed there was another fire around the corner in the housing complex. In all, there were twelve outside trash fires to be fought, one of which extended to the building at 23 Lightguard Drive.

The fire is being jointly investigated by the Medford Fire Department, the Medford Police Department and State Police assigned to the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section in the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Chief Gilberti said, "Investigators believe members of the community may have information that will solve this crime. Please call the Medford Fire or Police Department or the statewide Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229." The Arson Hotline is part of the Arson Watch Reward Program funded by the property and casualty insurance companies in Massachusetts. It provides rewards of up to \$5,000 to help solve the crime of arson.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Arson is not a victimless crime. It scares innocent people; it erodes the quality of life in our neighborhoods, taxes our scarce community resources, and needlessly puts the lives of our firefighters at risk."